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**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE REQUESTED
EXAMINING GROUP 1631**

PATENT

Confirmation No. 8762

Customer No. 22,852

Attorney Docket No. 04853.0074-00000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
)	
Kunio SHIOTA et al.)	Group Art Unit: 1631
)	
Application No.: 09/881,748)	Examiner: John S. Brusca
)	
Filed: June 18, 2001)	
)	Mail Stop AF
For: METHOD OF IDENTIFYING)	
CELLS USING DNA)	
METHYLATION PATTERNS)	

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Applicants now respond to the Final Office Action dated December 24, 2003. A petition for a Two Month Extension of Time and the requisite fee are filed herewith.

Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments and consideration of the following remarks.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims in this paper at pages 2-5.

Remarks/Arguments follow the amendments section of this paper at page 6.